

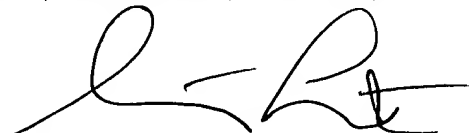
**REMARKS**

It was asserted in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment that the claims (Claims 1-42) were not provided with the proper status identifier. Applicant has corrected the status identifiers according to MPEP 714. Applicant requests reconsideration of the amended claims and remarks contained in the February 10, 2004 response (resubmitted with the RCE filed on March 5, 2004) for the above-identified application.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely Claims 1-42, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN




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Dated: June 24, 2004

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on June 24, 2004.

  
Jean Svoboda